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Denali Training Fund Final Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization: Communities in Schools		EN 796138 File 9-301
Name of Project: Career Exploration Opportunities		
Reporting Period: 08/22/08 – 6/30/09		
Contact Person: Jim Utter, CEO Manager		
Contact Number: (907) 333-4003 / 243-7101	Email Address: jutter@alaska.net	
Award Year: 2008 - 2009	Award Number: 377-I	
Original Amount Awarded: \$135,000.00	Final Expenditures: \$135,000.00	
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.		
Signed by: Jim Utter		
Dated <u>7/14/2009</u>		

1. A. In a few sentences, please describe the initial scope of your project.

1. The Mission of CEO is to encourage students to stay in school, enhance their education, and assist them in making informed career choices and to prepare them for success in the workforce of tomorrow.
2. This is a statewide innovative initiative conducted via Internet and video conferencing (VTC). The VTC happens twice a month – Internet connection is daily. Website <http://ceo.cisalaska.org>

B. Did you modify the scope or the budget at any time during this project?

- N/A

2. A. How many people did your original proposal intend to train?

- CEO trained all of its enrolled students. CEO is a year-long program and as such, certificates were awarded, credit was granted and recorded on student transcripts in May of 2009.

B. How many people did you ultimately train? Please attach a final list of participants, their community, certification and where they are employed.

- CEO enrolled 8 School Districts , 12 sites and 100 students. See attached Excel Spread Sheet for names and their communities.

- CEO enrolled High School students, grades 9 - 12 from the following School Districts and sites. Each site has an assigned teacher/mentor that works with the students.

- Iditarod School District – McGrath, Takotna, Grayling, Holy Cross & Shageluk
- Nome School District – Nome High School
- Yupiit School District – Tuluksak
- Lower Yukon – Scammon Bay
- Valdez – Valdez High School
- Dillingham – Dillingham Alternative School
- ASD – AVAIL Alternative School
- Juneau – Juneau High School

C. If there is a variance between original and final, please explain.

- N/A

3. Please tell us about lesson(s) learned during this project.

- We learned that we provide a very valuable service to all of our enrolled sites and students. CEO can accomplish this at a minimal cost, a little over \$900 per student per year. CEO reaches all corners of Alaska via the Internet which 99% of students have access to.– See attached Testimonials and Evaluations

- We became more aware that CEO needs to have an Advisory Board to help guide the program into the future – see attached listing

- A problem that CEO faces each year is the identification of our on-site teacher/mentor. This is left up to the school to assign a person. Sometimes the choice that is made is not in the best interest of the CEO program nor the enrolled students. We will continue to work on this issue by providing a more in-depth description of on-site teacher responsibilities and working with on-site Principals who make the decision of who to place in that role

4. Please provide a minimum of one success story for this project.

The Scammon Bay CEO students were new to the program this year. They became so interested and involved that they planned and carried out a trip to Anchorage in April. Under the leadership of their two on-site teachers, Melissa Rivers and Scott Davies, fourteen students raised money, arranged career oriented visits and generally put together a fact-finding tour. They visited, interviewed, did job shadows and researched the following: AVETEC, Wells Fargo, Alaska Construction Academy, Tastee Freeze, Calista, Coastal Village Corp., Anchorage Police Department, Alaska Native Health Center, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Bayshore Elementary, Beans Café, H-2-0 Oasis, Sea Life Center and UAA. They returned home and put together a video of their experiences, which can be viewed on the CEO public/home website starting in August – ceo.cisalaska.org

5. Please attach a few photos with descriptive captions.



This is a picture of the Scammon Bay CEO students and Melissa Rivers, the CEO on site teacher – April, 2009 in front of the UAA Native Student Services Dept
Scott Davies, the other SB CEO teacher, took the picture

Attachments: CEO Excel student participant spread sheet
CEO Testimonials
CEO Evaluations
CEO Advisory Board Members
CEO Fact Sheet
CEO FAQ

CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITIES (CEO)

Mission Statement

Sample Student & Professional Testimonials

2/09

The Mission of CEO is to encourage students to stay in school, enhance their education, assist them in making informed career decisions, and to prepare them for success in the workforce of tomorrow.

STUDENTS

This is my first year of being in CEO. I am very excited and looking forward to upcoming events. Something I have learned so far as a result of being in CEO is that even though you cannot see the other students you can still interact and have a great time meeting new friends. Something that I like so far about CEO is that the teachers involved are very dedicated and on task with the all the assignments and events taking place. Something I am hoping to get out of CEO during this year is learning to communicate and interact more with the other participants, because as you know I am shy.

CF

CEO is the best class I have joined. I am learning what I want to do when I am not in High school, and it also helped me now while I am in High school. But that is not the point! This class brings in real professionals and they tell us all about their field of work and why they are doing it. CEO has us write résumé's, practice interviewing, do a career project and job shadowing, all of its awesome.

LF

CEO is awesome - after taking the DOLWD Interest Profiler I found out that I am a social person. No other area even came close. One of jobs I am thinking about is pediatric physical therapy. I want to have a job that I am being active and I love helping children. I think that this job would be really rewarding. Also it is still in the medical field, but I wouldn't have to work any night shifts. That's a big bonus. My second career that has interest to me is still in the medical field but it is a nurse. First of all it is not a lot of school and the job is in high demand right now. I would still be able to help people. I am probably going to go into physical therapy, but if I change my mind it would be to become a nurse.

AW

I am in the 11th grade, I am a Student Participant in Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO- 2008-2009) I've now been participating in CEO for two years. It is a learning site to prepare student's like me, for good opportunities to have a good job and seek good careers. I enjoy working with other students around Alaska, participating in Conferences, and learning all I can to become a successful young woman, my dream is to become a Health Aide or Nurse for Alaska, and be a role model for my Community and for my Future.

RP

PROFESSIONAL

CEO is making a positive difference by bringing excellent resources and speakers into the classrooms of rural community schools who wouldn't otherwise have those opportunities. Rural Alaska students are exposed to career pathways, options, and ideas that they might not otherwise have received. CEO is giving these rural Alaskan students a feeling of community outside the boundaries of their own particular village. They are getting to communicate and participate with other students from all over the state.

DOL&WD

I feel that CEO is making a difference by engaging students in the FUN process of career exploration. So much of what we do in school isn't necessarily fun for lots of folks, but this process can be fun and a great learning tool all at once. It seems to be an easy going, positive, supportive, hands on environment where students are the focus and awareness and learning happens without the stress that is so often present in

structured classrooms and testing for measuring learning. As a presenter for these past five years, I have gained knowledge in the technology area with the VTCs and also keeping in touch with the remote areas and having a better understanding of what the process is there. I especially enjoyed the last newsletter where the young girl wrote about her town (Takatna) and how they see what they have and who they are – perhaps we all need to see with her eyes!!!

DOL&WD

CEO is making a positive difference in our rural schools by creating awareness among our high school students about the different job opportunities that are available in and around Alaska – and all done within our classrooms via VTCs. It also helps them to see the skills needed and what it takes in order to get these jobs. This knowledge fosters good work habits in school and provides goals and direction for our students. Most students in rural areas are not exposed to the many job opportunities that are out there and do not have a direction or drive to be good students and work towards a goal. CEO provides this opportunity and I want to express my deepest gratitude to the CEO staff who have made this opportunity available. Thank You!!!

PRINCIPAL

Providing my high school students with UPDATED career opportunity information and exploration sources that I as a small rural Principal/Teacher, don't have knowledge of, access to or the TIME to research. The CEO program has been a life-saver for our school in helping build future goals for our students.

PRINCIPAL/TEACHER

By providing an opportunity for high school students across the state to learn more about prospective careers and how to achieve them, CEO is making a positive difference for our Alaskan students. Getting real life knowledge from people in different industries will help guide these students in their choices for further study and training. Rural students are able to learn about career opportunities without leaving their school and village. This is a huge asset in light of the student and his/her parents comfort level and add to the attractiveness of CEO.

CIS OF ALASKA STATE BOARD of DIRECTORS

The students who participate in CEO are exposed to important information that will assist them as they start pursuing their careers. They are acquiring skills that employers are looking for and will understand the expectations employers have and how they can better meet those expectations. CEO also offers great networking opportunities for students who otherwise may not have exposure with other students and industry managers across the state. I have seen students who are very shy and quiet open up and share on the VTCs, which is a great way for them to feel more comfortable with public speaking and expressing themselves.

NANA HUMAN SERVICES

CEO is making a positive difference by allowing students in the small village of Takotna to learn about opportunities that do not exist here. Hearing students throughout Alaska express some of the same ideas, questions, concern, etc. that they have. Communicating with students outside their district. Asking questions of people with a broad range of knowledge and experience in helping young people prepare for employment or further education beyond high school. Providing a forum for students to explore ideas and get information that interests them. Giving students exposure to the use of technology in the pursuit of employment and or more education. Thanks!!!

CEO TEACHER

CEO ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

6/09

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Mission of the CEO Advisory Board is to
Utilize each member's guidance and expertise, accessing
Their network for the continued positive growth and development
Of CEO for the benefit of students throughout Alaska*

Asta Keller – Vice President, Wells Fargo, Community Affairs

Sharon Chriss – NMS (NANA Management Services) - HR Business Partner

Joe Banghart – Iditarod School District Superintendent

Roy Corral – Photo Journalist - Alaska Newspapers Inc

Tom Morgan – State Director, - Communities In Schools of Alaska

Heather Wagner – Staffing Director, - GCI Human Resources

Andy Rabung – Business Development Manger – AT&T

John Concilus – Coordinator Ed Technology - BSSD

Brad Gillespie – Regional Manager, - DOL&WD Job Centers

Shawn Aspelund – Materials & Warehouse Mgr - BP Exploration - Alaska

Financial Support for the operation of CEO comes from
DOL&WD, Denali Commission, GCI, AT&T, Wells Fargo and BP of Alaska

ceo.cisalaska.org

Communities In Schools (CIS) Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO)

• AN INTERNET BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM •

FACTS

- 2009 / 2010 will be the 6th year of Career Exploration Opportunities
- The focus is on **rural high school** students
- CEO is coordinated by a staff located in Anchorage that is connected to all enrolled sites and students via the Internet and VTC through GCI Broadband Services
- 2009 – creation of a CEO Advisory Board
- The VTCs are held twice each month on Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11:30
- The CEO class is typically held during the normal operating hours of the school day and is usually incorporated as an enhancement into an already existing program, such as a business class
- The time frame of operation is each academic year – August through May
- The CEO curriculum spotlights Alaska's High Growth Industries
- Students are mentored and monitored by on-site teachers
- Students never have to leave their community to receive this educational enhancement opportunity. Access is available and scheduled from within their school and the online curriculum is available to them at all times from any Internet connection
- The emphasis of all presentations is on research, preparation and learning about potential careers and career requirements
- Outcomes and results are measurable. Each year, students and on-site teachers evaluate CEO for its relevancy and worthiness making suggestions about improvement for the coming year

Jim Utter, CEO Manager

CONTACT – jutter@alaska.net - 907-243-7101
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<http://ceo.cisalaska.org>

Career Exploration Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions About CEO

1. What is Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO)?

CEO is a statewide program originated in 2004 by General Communications, Inc. (GCI) to provide career exploration and preparation opportunities for high school students. Since its beginning, CEO has grown from 17 students and 5 school sites to an anticipated 175 students and 10 school sites in 2009.

2. Who is eligible to participate?

All Alaska school districts are invited to participate, however, the focus is on rural students and schools. Selected districts commit to providing a local teacher/mentor who works with high school students in the year long program. Internet access and videoconferencing capability is required.

3. Can students meet standards and earn credit through participation?

Yes, district teachers assess student work and decide how to measure proficiency and award credit based on completed activities and assignments of the CEO curriculum. It's an alternative way for students to earn credit and meet standards. CEO is aligned with Alaska State Standards in Education in career exploration, technology, math, writing, research and reading.

4. How often do participants meet?

Enrolled students typically meet daily, although some do so less frequently. Most sites include CEO as an enhancement program to a class already scheduled. Online, participants can meet with one another at any time via the connector that CEO uses called Moodle. Participants across the state are expected to meet as a large group every other week via videoconference. Program participation does require a commitment of time, effort, and some local resources.

5. How do participants from various sites meet with one another?

Several technologies are used: Moodle is an e-learning portal used primarily for assignments and asynchronous communication; Web conferencing is used mostly for synchronous online interaction of small groups; video conferencing is used for allowing guest speakers and students to present and discuss critical topics every other week.

6. What does participation cost districts and/or students?

There is no cost. CEO is supported by various businesses and organizations offering assistance in a variety of ways. Among those collaborating to make the program financially possible are: Denali Commission, GCI, Wells Fargo, AT&T and BP. In-Kind support comes from many corporations, state-wide agencies and organizations.

Districts/Sites are required to provide a teacher/mentor to work closely with enrolled students. This person is critical to helping students get maximum value from their participation. These teachers receive a small addendum from CEO for their time and effort.

7. What is the role of the teacher/mentor?

Teacher/Mentors should have an interest in career exploration and be dedicated to helping students discover and prepare for satisfying and rewarding careers. The teacher/mentor role is critical; it's also a professional growth opportunity for those who like hands-on experience with new technologies for learning.

8. Will students and teachers learn to use the technologies during the program?

Yes, training is provided and everyone continues learning to use these tools throughout the school year. There is a lot of "hands on learning" and "on the job training" involved. The skills, attitudes, and values emphasized and used during the program will be those helpful for employment.

9. Is the program totally self-paced, meaning students could complete the work in one semester rather than two?

No. Although there is plenty of opportunity for students to pace themselves, the program is designed around topics that are introduced, explored, and discussed over a two-semester timeline. A calendar of topics and events is available online for all participants.

10. Can any high school student be successful in the program?

Those who are self-motivated and disciplined, interested in exploring career opportunities, and dedicated to spending the time required to do the work will definitely benefit from participation. There is considerable reading and writing involved -- much of it online -- so it's helpful if students are comfortable using computers. Assistance and support is available from teachers, peers, and program staff. Any student who tries hard will experience success and satisfaction.

11. More information can be found online on the CEO website

ceo.cisalaska.org

12. Who can provide more information?

Jim Utter, CEO Manager, jutter@alaska.net - 907-243-7101
Carol Goltz, CEO Coordinator, cgoltz@ceo.schoolaccess.net

Updated 4/06/09